



For Release: Wednesday, February 10, 2021

21-234-NEW

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Consumer Price Index, New York-Newark-Jersey City – January 2021

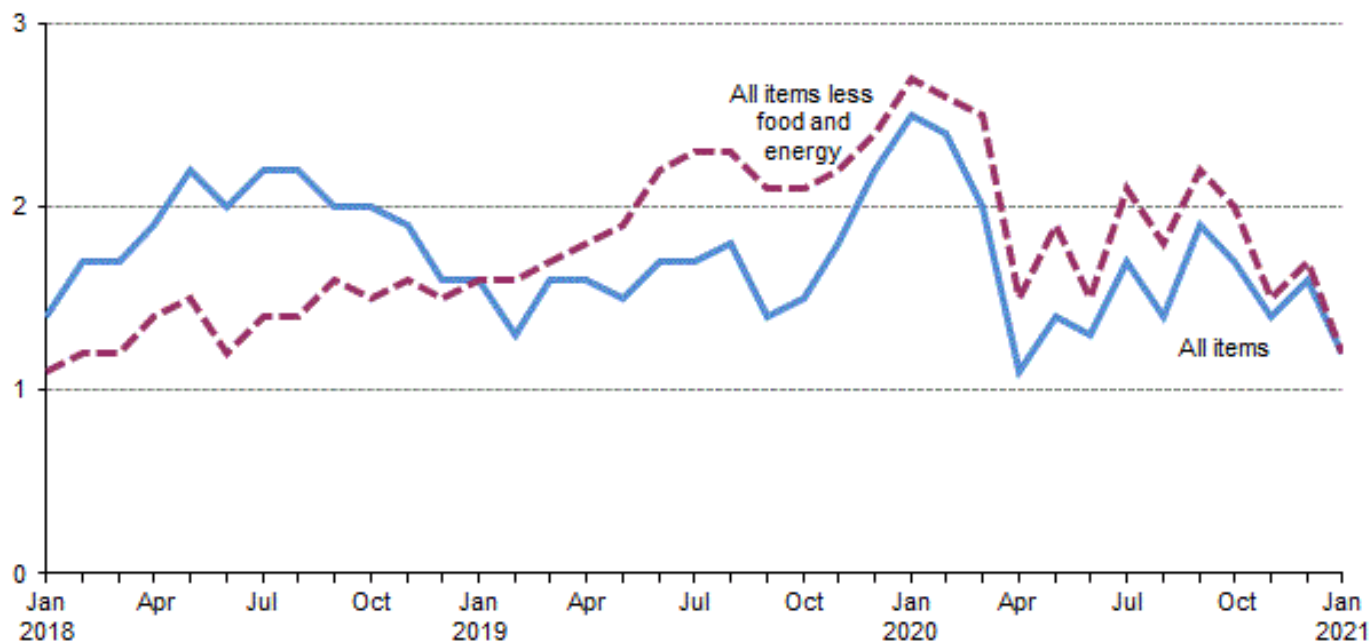
Area prices up 0.4 percent over the month and 1.2 percent over the year

Prices in the New York-Newark-Jersey City area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), rose 0.4 percent in January, following a 0.4-percent increase in December, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli noted that higher apparel prices drove the increase. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the year, the CPI-U rose 1.2 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Shelter prices rose 0.8 percent, and food prices rose 3.5 percent. Energy prices declined 2.8 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.2 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Newark-Jersey City, January 2018–January 2021

Percent



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index was unchanged in January, after increasing 0.3 percent in December. At-home food prices edged down 0.2 percent, with three of the six major grocery groups recording price declines. Prices for food away from home rose 0.2 percent.

Over the year, the food index was up 3.5 percent, with rising prices for both food away from home (4.9 percent) and for food at home (2.5 percent).

Energy

The energy index rose 3.7 percent in January, following a 3.4-percent increase in December. Gasoline prices were up 6.9 percent. Household energy prices rose 1.9 percent, with higher prices for natural gas (2.6 percent) and electricity (1.0 percent).

From January 2020 to January 2021, energy prices declined 2.8 percent, primarily due to a 9.7-percent fall in gasoline prices. Household energy prices were up 1.9 percent, driven by higher electricity prices (7.0 percent).

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent in January, following a 0.2-percent increase in December. Apparel prices, often up in January, rose 12.3 percent. Price declines for recreation (-2.0 percent) and other goods and services (-2.4 percent) partially offset the increase.

For the year ended in January 2021, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.2 percent. Shelter prices rose 0.8 percent, the slowest rate in more than ten years, with a 1.2-percent increase in owners' equivalent rent. Residential rent rose 0.9 percent, the smallest over-the-year increase recorded since February 1958. The indexes for new and used motor vehicles and for household furnishings and operations both rose 4.7 percent. Prices for education and communication increased 1.8 percent.

Table A. New York-Newark-Jersey City CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.2	0.8	0.6	2.5	0.4	1.4	0.5	1.6	0.8	2.5	0.4	1.2
February.....	0.2	0.6	0.3	2.6	0.5	1.7	0.2	1.3	0.2	2.4		
March.....	0.2	0.7	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.7	0.3	1.6	-0.2	2.0		
April.....	0.4	1.0	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.9	0.3	1.6	-0.5	1.1		
May.....	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.8	0.4	2.2	0.2	1.5	0.5	1.4		
June.....	0.2 ^(r)	0.9 ^(r)	0.2	1.8	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.7	0.1	1.3		
July.....	-0.1	1.0	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.2	0.0	1.7	0.5	1.7		
August.....	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.7	0.1	2.2	0.2	1.8	-0.1	1.4		
September.....	0.2	1.0	0.5	2.1	0.4	2.0	0.0	1.4	0.4	1.9		
October.....	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.8	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.5	-0.2	1.7		
November.....	0.2	1.6	-0.1	1.6	-0.2	1.9	0.1	1.8	-0.3	1.4		
December.....	0.1	2.1	0.1	1.6	-0.2	1.6	0.1	2.2	0.4	1.6		

Footnotes:
(R) = revised.

CPI-W

In January, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 279.909, up 0.4 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 1.4 percent over the year.

The February 2021 Consumer Price Index for New York-Newark-Jersey City is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on January 2021 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in January was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at

<https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm>.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measures of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater

volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE:Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Core Based Statistical Area includes Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties in New York; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Union Counties in New Jersey; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

Information in this release will be made available to individuals with sensory impairments upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, not seasonally adjusted (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items	283.291	284.350	285.525	1.2	0.8	0.4
All items (1967=100)	818.956	822.015	825.413			
Food and beverages	282.741	283.888	283.663	3.5	0.3	-0.1
Food	283.049	283.892	283.787	3.5	0.3	0.0
Food at home	267.638	268.160	267.564	2.5	0.0	-0.2
Cereals and bakery products	311.966	312.008	305.978	0.0	-1.9	-1.9
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	264.553	263.533	263.792	2.8	-0.3	0.1
Dairy and related products	237.267	239.769	242.657	4.8	2.3	1.2
Fruits and vegetables	345.518	346.208	343.461	0.9	-0.6	-0.8
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	254.793	264.311	262.536	3.3	3.0	-0.7
Other food at home	235.920	233.564	234.763	3.6	-0.5	0.5
Food away from home	312.624	313.944	314.528	4.9	0.6	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	273.745	279.033	277.184	2.8	1.3	-0.7
Housing	308.787	309.952	310.692	1.2	0.6	0.2
Shelter	393.007	392.874	392.787	0.8	-0.1	0.0
Rent of primary residence	410.546	410.110	409.744	0.9	-0.2	-0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)	401.824	402.036	402.401	1.2	0.1	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2)	401.327	401.538	401.903	1.2	0.1	0.1
Fuels and utilities	194.119	199.732	202.932	2.2	4.5	1.6
Household energy	182.846	189.054	192.568	1.9	5.3	1.9
Energy services	179.803	185.024	187.782	5.0	4.4	1.5
Electricity	179.045	187.346	189.182	7.0	5.7	1.0
Utility (piped) gas service	168.904	167.567	171.990	0.9	1.8	2.6
Household furnishings and operations	110.968	113.575	115.465	4.7	4.1	1.7
Apparel	114.335	113.195	127.102	1.6	11.2	12.3
Transportation	215.169	215.559	218.246	-1.6	1.4	1.2
Private transportation	204.391	206.238	209.138	0.0	2.3	1.4
New and used motor vehicles(3)	94.648	95.119	94.686	4.7	0.0	-0.5
New vehicles(1)	205.107	208.742	210.395	2.1	2.6	0.8
Used cars and trucks(1)	294.608	291.581	288.705	9.7	-2.0	-1.0
Motor fuel	175.714	181.789	194.216	-9.8	10.5	6.8
Gasoline (all types)	174.763	180.864	193.362	-9.7	10.6	6.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	172.047	178.335	191.300	-10.0	11.2	7.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	191.651	196.519	205.444	-8.7	7.2	4.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	196.662	201.334	210.453	-7.6	7.0	4.5
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	745.228	745.257	755.633	-3.4	1.4	1.4
Medical care	534.456	536.246	534.632	2.1	0.0	-0.3
Recreation(3)	132.484	133.042	130.375	1.4	-1.6	-2.0
Education and communication(3)	150.086	149.973	150.705	1.8	0.4	0.5
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1)	1,271.265	1,271.176	1,272.387	2.5	0.1	0.1
Other goods and services	433.731	448.673	437.829	-0.6	0.9	-2.4

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, not seasonally adjusted (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020
Commodity and service group						
All items	283.291	284.350	285.525	1.2	0.8	0.4
Commodities	189.798	191.140	194.743	1.1	2.6	1.9
Commodities less food and beverages	136.087	137.435	142.543	-1.0	4.7	3.7
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	168.511	169.643	179.311	-3.0	6.4	5.7
Durables	93.306	94.709	95.228	2.6	2.1	0.5
Services.....	361.306	362.182	361.575	1.3	0.1	-0.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	272.399	273.426	274.717	1.2	0.9	0.5
All items less shelter.....	239.748	241.280	242.956	1.5	1.3	0.7
Commodities less food	141.062	142.536	147.467	-0.8	4.5	3.5
Nondurables	226.220	227.376	232.418	0.7	2.7	2.2
Nondurables less food.....	174.788	176.162	185.172	-2.5	5.9	5.1
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	338.268	340.205	339.053	1.9	0.2	-0.3
Services less medical care services.....	346.178	346.997	346.359	1.1	0.1	-0.2
Energy	182.860	189.109	196.015	-2.8	7.2	3.7
All items less energy	294.791	295.428	296.139	1.5	0.5	0.2
All items less food and energy	298.888	299.496	300.345	1.2	0.5	0.3

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.
- (2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.
- (3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- (4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
- (5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.